

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Summary of the Response

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 3-5 and 10-11 have been amended and claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 12-14 have been previously withdrawn. Thus, claims 1 and 3-11 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed on April 20, 2005, claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0098870 to Kashiwagi et al., ("Kashiwagi") in view of admitted prior art. It is noted that claims 1, 3-5 and 10-11 have been amended and claim 2 has been canceled. To the extent the rejections remain applicable to the claims currently pending, Applicants hereby traverse the rejections, as follows.

Claims 1, 3-5 and 10-11 Recite Patentable Subject Matter

Regarding claims 1, 3-5 and 10-11, Applicants submit that nothing in the cited prior art, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests at least the features of the present invention of a multi-channel management method and apparatus, (1) connected to a plurality of terminals, having a "management unit which manages a setting status of each channel in the multi-channel input system by providing a channel-setting table showing a relationship between the plurality of terminals and a plurality of channels that can be utilized in the multi-channel input system," as recited in amended claim 1; (2) applied to a multi-channel input system for making a wireless connection among a

“plurality of terminals,” each connected to, and independently communicating with, a “high-order terminal” and “managing a setting status of each channel “by providing a channel-setting table in the high-order terminal,” as recited in claim 3 and the parallel language of claim 4; (3) “connected to and communicating with a high-order terminal via a network, which manages a setting status of each channel in a multi-channel input system,” as recited in claim 5; and (4) “which is connected to and communicates with a high-order terminal via a network,” as recited in claims 10 and 11.

Kashiwagi is directed to a wireless LAN system that reduces interference among base stations. A base station connected to a wired LAN includes a wired connection unit connected to the wired LAN and a wireless communication unit communicating with a LAN terminal via radio waves. The base station finds frequency bands already in use by other devices in a place where the base station is installed, and sets up a frequency band not used by the other devices as a frequency band to be used by the wireless communication unit to automatically set up a frequency band of radio waves to be used by the wireless communication unit. In operation, a wireless hub affected by an interference first checks its own location information to search for a free channel available for setup. That is, the wireless hub uses the location information to search for a free channel to which no wireless hub is allocated. Kashiwagi discloses that each of the hubs (or terminals) exchanges mutual positional information for deleting influences of the interference. See page 4, paragraph 0049.

Nothing in Kashiwagi, however, discloses or suggests at least the features of the present invention of a multi-channel management method and apparatus, (1) connected

to a plurality of terminals, having a "management unit which manages a setting status of each channel in the multi-channel input system by providing a channel-setting table showing a relationship between the plurality of terminals and a plurality of channels that can be utilized in the multi-channel input system," as recited in amended claim 1; (2) applied to a multi-channel input system for making a wireless connection among a "plurality of terminals," each connected to, and independently communicating with, a "high-order terminal" and "managing a setting status of each channel "by providing a channel-setting table in the high-order terminal," as recited in claim 3 and the parallel language of claim 4; (3) "connected to and communicating with a high-order terminal via a network, which manages a setting status of each channel in a multi-channel input system," as recited in claim 5; and (4) "which is connected to and communicates with a high-order terminal via a network," as recited in claims 10 and 11. Applicants' admitted prior art fails to cure these deficiencies in Kashiwagi.

For at least these reasons, the Applicants submit that claims 1, 3-5 and 10-11 are allowable over the cited prior art.

Claims 6-9 Recite Patentable Subject Matter

Each of claims 6-9 depends from allowable claim 5. The Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 6-9 is allowable for at least the same reasons as allowable claim 5.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentably distinguish the present invention from the cited references.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 108287-00005.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time (one month)

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